



The Most Livable
City in America

City of Saint Paul
Public Works Department
Sewer Utility



SMOKE TESTING NOTICE

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Reduction Program

In **April, May and June**, S.E.H a contractor working for the Saint Paul Sewer Utility will be conducting smoke tests of the sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood (see the enclosed map for project testing and mailing areas). **Smoke testing will begin in mid-April and typically occur during weekday hours (you will be re-notified 24 – 48 hours before the test will take place).**

Smoke Testing Informational Meeting (4/8/09)

**Where: City Hall, Rm. 41 (Basement)
15 Kellogg Blvd. West**

**When: Wednesday, April 8, 2009
2 to 4 p.m.; and 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

(*) Building Managers/ Property Owners/ Residents:

1. For those located within the Smoke Testing Project Area:

Access to building roof tops may be needed such that city and/or contracted staff can document simulated smoke emissions from buildings (City Legislative Code 76.13).

2. For those located within the Mailing Area (see enclosed map):

During the first week in April please fill unused fixture traps and floor drains with water (at least 1 gallon for each).

(*) Also see enclosed *Frequently Asked Questions sheet and Project Area Map.*

The purpose of smoke testing is to find defects and faulty connections where excess rain water (*Inflow*) and ground water (*Infiltration*) can enter the sanitary sewer system, negatively effecting its economical and safe functioning. Illegal Inflow sources/connections include: sump pumps, roof and foundation drains, and storm drain cross-connections. The information gained from smoke testing will help the City find and eliminate unknown sources of (I/I) entering the sanitary sewer system. **Reducing I/I is an on-going City effort to help:**

- ***Comply with the Met Council Rules.*** In or after 2013 the Metropolitan Council of Environmental Services (MCES) will add an annual demand charge (est. @ \$3.5 million/ year) to Saint Paul's wastewater treatment bills if the excessive I/I is not removed from the system. The amount of I/I defined as excessive is determined by MCES. For more information on the surcharge program visit the Met Council's website @ www.metrocouncil.org/environment/ProjectTeams/I-I-Home.htm
- ***Maintain Health & Safety (Reduce the Risk of Sewer Back-ups and Sinkholes).***
- ***Extend the Service Life of Public Infrastructure (Lift stations, sewer pipe, etc.)***
- ***Reduce Wastewater Treatment Costs by reducing the amount of clear water that is treated.***

Please see other side of this letter for More Smoke Testing Information !!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SMOKE TESTING

Process:

- Simulated smoke will be injected into the sewer system. As a result smoke may be seen coming from manhole covers, storm drains, roof vents, and building foundations.
- After each setup the smoke test will last approximately 30 minutes.
- Photographs will be taken to document potential leaks/defects.
- Inspection crews will not need to enter buildings, unless to gain access to building rooftops.
- Faucets and bathroom facilities can still be used during smoke testing.

Tips to prevent smoke from entering your building (complete prior to test):

- **Run water faucets for a few seconds in unused sinks, tubs, and drains to fill fixture traps.**
- **Pour water into each floor drain (at least 1 gallon)**
- If you have defective plumbing (i.e. no trap), you should consult with a licensed plumber.

If you notice smoke in your building:

- **Do NOT become alarmed.**
- Open doors and windows to ventilate the premises to clear smoke.
- Contact the Smoke Testing Crew Chief, @ (651) 238-0572.
- Simulated smoke will not stain walls or furniture; nor will it leave a residue.
- Consult a licensed plumber in the near future to identify the smoke access area, as the potential exists for sewer gases to enter the building in the same manner.

Safety/ Health Issues:

- There is **NO** danger of fire or explosion of sewer gas with the smoke testing process.
- St. Paul Police and Fire Departments will be notified of the smoke testing.
- **Simulated smoke is not harmful to your health, but may cause some coughing.** Smoke irritation is temporary and should disappear after exposure has ceased. When possible avoid unnecessary exposure to simulated smoke.
- **If there is an individual in your building, business, or residence who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations please contact the Sewer Utility at (651-266-6171), before April 8, 2009.**
- A copy of Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the simulated smoke can be found on Saint Paul's Home website page (www.stpaul.gov) under the headings of Government/Public Works/ Sewer Utility/ Smoke Testing/ Safety.

For Questions Before Testing – Please Contact Saint Paul Sewer Utility



Aaron Hass
Saint Paul Sewer Utility
(651) 266-6171
aaron.hass@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Alternate Contact:
Sewer Utility Service Desk
(651) 266-6234

For Questions During Testing – Please Contact S.E.H



Paul Kubesh
Smoke Testing Crew Chief (S.E.H - St. Paul Contractor)
(651) 238-0572

Thank you for your cooperation !!